

15

*Insanity?*

ADDRESSES

7

OF

REV. HENRY W. BELLOW, D. D.,

AND

PROFESSOR ROSWELL D. HITCHCOCK.

(50)

DELIVERED AT THE

BROADWAY TABERNACLE, Nov. 7, 1855,

IN BEHALF OF THE

**UNITED STATES**

**INEBRIATE ASYLUM.**

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DR. TURNER'S ADDRESS TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

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NEW YORK:

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1855.

Any person or persons wishing to subscribe to the fund of the United States Inebriate Asylum, can subscribe their names, with the amount, to the form below, and forward the same to either of the committee on subscription.

ANSON G. PHELPS, Esq., 21 Cliff Street,  
Rev. N. A. PRINCE, 290 Broadway,  
J. EDWARD TURNER, M.D., 97 Clinton Place, 8th St.

We, the undersigned, do hereby agree to pay the United States Inebriate Asylum, (as a fund to found said institution,) all sums of money which we annex to our respective signatures.

NAME.	RESIDENCE.	AMOUNT SUBSCRIBED.
19th Cent RC565 .		

B45

1855

MEETING  
AT THE  
BROADWAY TABERNACLE,  
NOVEMBER 7, 1855,  
IN BEHALF OF  
*The United States Inebriate Asylum.*

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A meeting in behalf of this institution was held in the Broadway Tabernacle, New York, on the evening of November 7th, 1855, Hon. Edward A. Lambert in the chair. Prayer was offered by Rev. Dr. De Witt.

The Secretary pro tem., Rev. N. A. Prince, made the following statement respecting the origin and character of the Asylum.

The United States Inebriate Asylum originated in the efforts of a medical gentleman of this city, (J. Edward Turner, M. D.)

By the terms of the Charter granted April 15, 1854, by the Legislature of this State, and amended during its last session, the Asylum is required to have a capital of fifty thousand dollars, (which can be increased to two hundred thousand dollars if necessary), the said capital to be divided into shares of ten dollars each; each share entitling the holder to one vote in the election of the Board of Directors. Ten per cent. of the capital must be paid in before the Asylum can commence operations.

Fifty per cent of its income is to be appropriated for the support of poor and destitute inebriates and their families; the balance of the

income for the payment of the interest (which is not to exceed seven per cent.) on the capital fund, and other incidental expenses.

The Asylum has power to erect, purchase or lease such buildings as may be needed.

The Asylum is to be under the supervision of a Board of twenty Directors, who must be stockholders and citizens of the State of New York. The names of the first Board of Directors appointed by the Legislature, who hold their offices until the first Monday in January, 1856, are the following: G. P. Parker, A. G. Phelps, E. A. Lambert, J. D. Wright, Jacob S. Miller, N. A. Prince, Jeremiab Terbell, C. C. North, Alfred Brush, J. Edward Turner, Z. Pratt, Washington Hunt, E. B. Morgan, Noah Worrell, Henry Dubois, and G. B. Alvord.

An annual report of the condition of the Asylum will be required, which must be filed in the office of the Secretary of State.

The Asylum has power to retain all patients, if necessary to their reformation, for three or six months.

The Directors give their time and labor in founding this institution.

This Asylum will not be commenced until the amount of fifty thousand dollars are subscribed. About five thousand dollars have been already subscribed by the Directors. Application has been made as yet to none except the Directors for aid, in raising funds for the institution.

The Act of Incorporation, subject to modification or repeal, is to continue in force for fifty years, when the Asylum and the grounds connected therewith are to be ceded to the State of New York, to be used by the said State for some benevolent purpose.

It will be seen, that we aim to endow an institution whose object will be to lift up the poor, fallen, destitute inebriate, to provide for him a *retreat from the insidious spirit of temptation*—to bring him under kind, skillful medical treatment—to throw around him the restraints of truth, and thus to free him from the servitude of appetite; for he is free, and only he, whom the *truth makes free*.

It will be our object to connect with the Asylum workshops in which each patient, as soon as his condition will permit, will be regularly employed, thus making the Asylum, so far as is possible, self-supporting; for labor, well directed, is *reformatory*, its tendency

*progressive.* You can never redeem a man from any vice unless you give him something to do, and if he is weak, *help him to do it.*

This Institution is for all classes, rich and poor, and is worthy of the noblest philanthropic effort. Ingem truth in the dark, suffering heart of thy brother, and he will rejoice in its perpetual light and warmth, and be jubilant in his ultimate freedom! Give him aid, sympathy, the quickening inspiration of love, and with God's blessing, he will at length stand erect, reclaimed, redeemed, an heir of immortal glory.

## ADDRESS OF DR. BELLOWS.

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LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

NOTWITHSTANDING the immense and doubtless the greatly successful labors of the temperance cause, drunkenness, according to statistics that do not probably reach more than half the dreadful truth, carries off fifty thousand citizens of the United States, yearly—the exact total by these tables being, for the last year, fifty-eight thousand seven hundred and eleven, and for the last ten years, four hundred and seventy-eight thousand two hundred and thirty-nine. We do not doubt the real number to be a million. Consider the immense proclivity of our people to this vice, when the prodigious efforts to stay it leave such a sum of it unprevented and uncured! The climatic, political, and moral causes of this terrible effect, have never yet received due consideration, There is, unquestionably, a powerfully stimulating influence in our climate, which renders the human constitution here extraordinarily excitable, and gives to intoxicating liquors a charm and a peril which they have no where else. Foreigners uniformly assert the less need, and the greater power, of alcoholic drinks here than in Europe. But worse than our climate, is the political and social atmosphere in which our free institutions and our new condition place us. The same stimulus, which makes our commercial and mechanical life of unprecedented enterprise and swiftness, which hurries along our railroads and steamships, and devours the wilderness, gives a fearfulness of competition, a recklessness of haste, a fever of the blood and the brain, to our people, which makes them cravers of strong drinks—vast consumers of rich and exciting food, and of stimulating liquors. Almost all our successful citizens are taxed be-

yond their strength; are doing two or three men's work, and are tempted to inebriety by their exhaustion, and the necessity of keeping up their spirits to the mark. And then, of course, in this commercial *stampede*, there are thousands of disappointed competitors in the race, men weaker in the power of enterprise, but often strongest in sweet and noble endowments, who are trampled beneath the hurrying crowd and left to solace themselves with whatever they can find to cheer or drown their sorrows.

The drunkenness of this country is almost a part of the national character and policy. It may be almost said to be the measure of the cerebral excitability and working temper of our people. The nation is drunk with youth, the new wine of political freedom and democratic ideas. It is a divine intoxication, having its great providential purpose, and its magnificent results; but it is attended by a fearful shadow—intemperance of speculation, intemperance of feeling, intemperance of appetite. Licentiousness and drunkenness are the dreadful weeds that spring up in this hot-house of political and economic earnestness and activity. They wreath around the trunks of the noble and fruit-bearing trees our tropical soil produces, their monstrous poison vines, and it is almost impossible to cut these down without leveling the precious standards that uphold them.

We have naturally enough supposed that education and religion would eradicate, or gradually anticipate and displace intemperance, with their own wholesome excitements. But if there be any thing which our experience ought to teach us, it is, that drunkenness and licentiousness are vices which thrive in educated and Christianized communities, at least as much as elsewhere; for education and religion, in proportion to the hold they take of communities, are themselves stimulants, and communicate an earnestness, and create a waste of vital energy, which, without special efforts, will drive those who are under their influence to counteracting excitements. The connection between erotic and religious sensibility is too subtle a theme to enter on here. But in regard to the sway of intemperance in educated communities, compare Scotland with France, England with Italy, the United States with any country in the world. The truth is, that intemperance is usually proportioned to the earnestness of a people's life, to the extent in which any of their passions, high or low, are in-



flamed, and to the waste of their powers, whether in lawful or unlawful pursuits, in virtuous or vicious callings. This makes its prevention and cure a subject requiring *special* as well as general attention. It is not to be treated as a thing growing exclusively out of moral, or exclusively out of physical causes; not wholly as connected with what is bad, or with what is good; not exclusively as a vice, nor wholly as a misfortune. It is a fact, to be investigated in all its sources, and met in every shape and by every method. Education and religion must be depended on, because they not only tend to correct the evils which they help to create, but all other evils, through their light, and the moral power and divine sanctions that inhere in them; but education and religion have their own mistakes; and in this country, before intemperance can be brought within tolerable limits, we have yet to learn from education and religion, the means of moderating the haste to be rich, the exclusive devotion to business, the ignorance of an attractive domestic and social life, the community of the old and the young in their amusements, the extinction of our intense social ambition—which at present waste the nervous life, create horrible dyspepsia, plant chronic excitability of all the functions of body and soul, and make the seeds of drunkenness hereditary in the constitution of the people.

The immensity of the cause of our national intemperance ought not to drive us to despair; on the contrary it should excite in us a livelier sympathy with any and all the means that are now employed to prevent or to cure it. The efforts which a quarter of a century have witnessed in this reformation, are almost unparalleled in dignity and importance. God knows where we should have been without them. But all these efforts leave us with this vast amount of inebriety on our hands. And whatever success may attend the efforts at prevention, I think it cannot be doubted that an immense sum of drunkenness will and must still be left to cure.

It is unnecessary to describe the evil of drunkenness, either for its victim or those who suffer with him. We are unhappily too intimately acquainted with the dreadful wrecks it occasions to make any description of its ruins important to this argument. A dove writhing in the talons of an eagle, a lamb in the folds of a serpent, is not so affecting a spectacle as a human soul in the power of intemperance. That



horrible fate before which the heroes and heroines of the old classic tragedy succumbed, or that iron house of the Inquisition, moving its horrid walls day by day an inch nearer to its caged victim, and in the end crushing him with remorseless but protracted cruelty, are not too dreadful images of the power of drunkenness. How pitiful are the misfortunes—certainly as great as the crimes—of him on whom this leprosy has fastened! and for those with whom he is connected—his wife, his children, his parents. Is the old Myzentian cruelty, which bound the loathsome corpse face to face with the living, more frightful than the fate of the drunkard's kindred and friends?

But now, how has Society treated the drunkard? She has either let him alone, or immured him in prisons and jails. She has been compelled to do the last for her own preservation; for drunkenness is the matrix of crime and injury, the devourer of the public wealth and safety, the serpent that tempts murder, and arson, and lust, and theft, and every other crime and vice, to its daily iniquity. But do we not do a serious violence to the moral sense of the community by this confounding of weakness with malignity, of vice with crime? Everybody knows and feels that a drunkard, though quite as dangerous as a murderer, and perhaps the cause of as much loss of life, is not deserving of a murderer's fate; that vice ought not to be treated as crime. Every time a man suffers for crimes committed in drunkenness, the conscience and humanity of the public are shocked, as much as though insanity were treated as crime, as it so long was. The enlightened conscience of the world demanded the separation of insanity and crime; it now demands the separation of drunkenness and crime. They must both be restrained, but in distinct ways and for separate ends. Drunkenness needs to be restrained a thousand times as much as it is; but it never can be, so long as the criminal police are its controllers, and the jail its house of correction. So long it will lie corroding in the homes of the land, eating out the vitals of families; wives, sisters, children, wearing out their hearts in concealing, protecting, and restraining it. Alas! the sum of misery which the unprovided means of society for the confinement and correction of drunkenness occasions, is past all telling. There is hardly a man or woman present that does not know this from an experience they would shudder to relate. I have seen the day when I would have given the results of

a year's labor for a month's appropriate shelter and skillful care of an inebriate friend. And such friends as one sees hopelessly in the grasp of this vice! the gifted, the tender-hearted, the simple-minded, the otherwise pure and good! And they to be thrown into the society of felons, of thieves and murderers! It is enough to crush the heart to think of it.

I see that this asylum, by the language of its charter,\* provides only for the poor and destitute inebriate; and in that I think its idea too limited. All inebriates are poor and destitute, and their friends helpless and alike in despair, without the means of confining them in an appropriate and remedial institution. As well might we make a distinction in our hospitals for the small-pox. Let the rich be made to pay whatever you please for the use of this institution, but provide for their use of it by the original charter. There is not a rich parent in New-York that cannot better afford to drop his carriage than fail to contribute to the endowment of an Asylum in which his own children may find their ruin averted. Of course the poor and destitute deserve our first consideration; but drunkenness is not confined to class, nor are its horrible evils worse in one than in another station.

If we turn from the relief to human misery which our Asylum, considered as the inebriate's home, would afford, to the probable cure of the disease which pathological treatment would effect, we find new and still greater reason for the establishment of this Asylum. Drunkenness is a *disease*, even when it is a moral weakness and a vice. It so disorders the normal condition of the stomach and the brain, that human beings in its power are no longer open to the ordinary motives which affect the will and the conscience. The sincerest desire and effort to avoid and conquer the temptation to drink is, in many cases, as vain as by a moral effort to prevent the return of an ague fit. Whole families are by constitutional inheritance liable to its tyranny; and some individuals are as much and as innocently its victims as though they fell by the cholera or the plague. Now this frightful disease is at least as hopeful as insanity, if taken in time. A very large per centage of those who go to asylums in time recover from insanity; and medical science tells us that probably eighty per cent. of the inebriates would be cured in appropriate hospitals for drunkenness.

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\* The projectors of this Asylum design it for all classes--the rich as well as the poor.

How few under the dominion of this appetite know how to treat themselves for it, or think of treating themselves as sick men! They are as much under a delusion as their friends, when they think it a purely moral disorder, wholly within the control of the will. The brain and the stomach, with which it has this perilous sympathy, must be restored to a normal condition before the will is free to follow the motives for self-control.

We need an Asylum, if it were only for the profounder study of drunkenness. If medicine owed to hospitals, and psychology to Insane Asylums, some of their greatest triumphs, what might not the cure of drunkenness owe to an asylum in which inebriety had a thorough, large, scientific, and practical investigation, with reference to its origin and cure.

## ADDRESS OF PROFESSOR HITCHCOCK.

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LADIES AND GENTLEMEN :

There is something of a contrast between a quiet Theological Lecture Room and this public assembly ; and, to a man of recluse and scholastic habits, the contrast is somewhat appalling too. But the religion, whose history it is my vocation to teach, is preeminently a religion of philanthropic instincts and energies. Its birth-song was not merely "Glory to God in the heavens," but "Peace on earth and good will to men." Not as some of the manuscripts read, and Kosuth would have it, "Peace on earth to men of good will," but peace and good will to men as they are, destitute enough of good will themselves, but desperately in need of it from others.

But not only is Christianity philanthropic ; there is, in truth, no other philanthropy than the Christian. Athens had no retreat for the sick, and Rome had none, except the Temples of Esculapius, where priests were the only physicians, and their patients were cured by magic, if cured at all. Even Judaism was poorly furnished with humane appliances. The poor man who fell among thieves and got so roughly handled, in going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, had to be carried to a caravanserai, and depend upon an accidental charity for the payment of his bills. Hospitals, infirmaries, asylums are all of a Christian parentage. The Apostate Julian thought he discovered in them one of the main props of the despised Galilean faith. They are certainly amongst the clearest tokens of its Divinity.

Christendom has now a vast multitude of these public charities ; only less various than the forms of suffering which have called, and are calling for relief. Comparing nations, Europe in this regard, has some advantage of us ; since there it is, in so many cases, the munifi-

cence of governments, while here it is the munificence of individuals, which undertakes these enterprises of mercy. And yet, considering the circumstances of our case, we have no occasion to be ashamed of what has been accomplished amongst us. We have no occasion to be ashamed for the country at large; none certainly for this commercial metropolis of the country, whose institutions of charity, in number and efficiency, are nobly commensurate in some good degree with her abundant and marvelous prosperity.

To night a new charity comes knocking at our doors; new to us, new to Christendom. It has no precedent to plead, no model to follow. It is proposed, by a subscription of fifty or a hundred thousand dollars, to provide an Asylum where poor inebrates, robbed of their manhood by intoxicating drinks, may stand some better chance than they now possess of having that manhood restored to them.

There is one kind of courage in new and great undertakings, which cuts itself off in advance from the possibility of retreat; as the desperate Cortez sank his ships on the Mexican coast. There is another and more sober courage, which never takes a risk without having first provided against the worst; as the prudent Wellington made his stand at Waterloo with an open road to the Belgian Capital behind him. So this new enterprise offers itself to the public, with all due modesty, as an experiment. If it fails, the provisions of its charter are such that no great loss of money will be incurred. There is no expensive machinery to be sacrificed. The Directors ask no pay for their services, and would commit neither themselves nor their patrons to any extravagant expenditures. At first it is proposed, not to erect but, if possible, to lease the necessary buildings. And then the buildings, when erected, are pledged irrevocably to benevolent uses. When they cease to serve the end for which they are designed, if they ever do, then the State steps in to devote them to some other charitable end. In any event the money invested is solemnly guaranteed to philanthropy; if not in this form, then in some other.

But while the originators of this enterprise thus put it forward modestly as an experiment, they wish it to be understood that their own convictions are very decided, and their own hopes very sanguine, in the matter. It is plain to them, that there is a gap here in the noble array of our Christian charities; that while almost every other form of human infirmity and wretchedness has some benevolent in-

strumentality adjusted to it, some remedial appliance provided for it, this one of drunkenness has been let alone in despair, let alone, I mean, as a pathological phenomenon, to be pathologically dealt with.

Intemperance in the use of intoxicating drinks has a Natural History greatly needing to be written. It is characteristically a vice of the Occident rather than the Orient; of the higher latitudes rather than the lower; a vice peculiarly of the Scandinavian and Teutonic races; a vice preeminently of our own Continent and our own Republic. At the opening of the present century, when we had barely started in our career of Constitutional government, it began to be apprehended that we were rapidly becoming a nation of Drunkards. Patriotism was alarmed, Christian philanthropy aroused, and vigorous measures inaugurated to arrest and eradicate the growing evil. For some forty years now has the tocsin sounded, and the struggle been maintained. First, the intemperate use of liquors was interdicted. Then distilled liquors altogether, in any degree, were interdicted. Then fermented liquors. And so the siege was carried on by successive parallels, crowding closer and closer to the hostile batteries, until now at last legislation is invoked to storm the Malakoff and take the town. While there are those who tell us that these instrumentalities are all alike impotent; that drunkenness is a vice, which has its roots in human depravity, which only the Gospel, as dispensed and administered by the Church of Christ, is able to cope with.

Into these debates and questionings this enterprise of the Inebriate Asylum does not enter. It indulges in no partizanship, either religious, moral or political. It commits itself neither to the old pledge the new pledge, or no pledge at all. It goes in exclusively neither for moral suasion, nor for legal suasion. It simply assumes, what no one will deny, that intemperance is a gigantic evil amongst us, not subdued as yet, nor likely to be, by any forces we have marshalled against it; the pest of individuals, of families, of communities; the direct occasion of the greater part of our pauperism, of the greater part of our social sufferings and crimes against the peace and good order of society. And, assuming this, it offers a remedial and recuperative instrumentality, in which we may all unite, with the hope, nay, with the full assurance, of being able to do something, if not to annihilate, at least sensibly to abate the mischief. We would cajole the



public into no scheme of moral quackery. We advertise no sovereign Panacea. We simply confront the evil as it meets us in the street, as it inundates our Court rooms, and overflows our prisons; and we say to all: Come, here is a nuisance which may surely be abated; here are taxes, which may surely be diminished; here are crimes, which may surely be prevented; here are men, now as good as lost to society, lost, we may say, to Heaven, who may surely be reclaimed and saved. We cannot hope to save them all, any more than we can hope wholly to dry up any other fountain of human woe; but hundreds and thousands of men may be saved, while all that is sacred either in Patriotism, in Humanity, or in Religion counsels and commands us to make the attempt. Pledges may still be circulated, papers edited, and books written. Eloquent lecturers may still itinerate the land from one end of it to the other; and the Maine Law, if that shall seem wise and good, be carried in triumph from capital to capital. Let each man choose his own connections, and his own instrumentality, doing his utmost in his own way. We debate perplexed questions with no man. But here is something to be done; not a question in ethics, not a speculation, but a work, and a work in which we may all engage. This then is our first argument for the Inebriate Asylum. It raises no embittering questions, comes into conflict with no man's crotchets, asks no man to intermit or slacken any other instrumentality; but it offers a common ground, whereon we all of us may stand, and hope to accomplish something of undeniable and solid good. Daily there reel in our streets intoxicated men, boisterous and violent, endangering the peace of society in public places, carrying a curse to dependent families; daily the gripe of the law tightens upon them and drags them to answer for their evil deeds. What shall be done with these men? As things now are, we have nothing for them but our prisons. The man, who has been guilty only of a glass too much, goes in with felons, and takes the chance of coming out again a felon himself. In any case, we must foot his bills, providing him with food and clothing. Is it not better, immeasurably better, both for him, for his family, and for ourselves, to give him an asylum rather than a cell? Which is better—I put it to Christian feeling, nay, I put it to common sense—which is better, the iron wristlets or the silken cord?



Another argument for this enterprise is, that the mode of treatment proposed is eminently rational. It contemplates drunkenness under a threefold aspect : as a disease, as an insanity, and as a sin ; and would deal with it accordingly. That drunkenness is each and all of these, admits of no question. Heating the blood, it poisons the whole body. It unsettles the nervous system, staggers the brain, and maddens the intellect. Above all, it degrades the sentiments, smothers conscience, and leads the way to every form of moral evil. It follows, as a matter of course, that the remedy, to be effective, must be as many-sided as the evil it combats. If the bane be threefold, so also must be the antidote. And as for the order, reason not less than Scripture, suggests : First, that which is rational, then that which is spiritual ; the sound body in order to a sound mind.

The inebriate enters the Asylum, first of all, as a diseased man. It is not enough to stop his rations of liquid fire. The coats of his stomach are inflamed, perhaps spotted with ulcers ; the entire circulation is deranged and feverish. He needs counteractive and soothing medicines as much as a poisoned man needs them. The red and purple blossoms of intemperance call for medical treatment as loudly as the white blossoms of the small pox. The yellow fever itself is not more a fever than the raging of a drunkard's thirst. His first, best friend, is a wise and skillful physician ; his first necessity, not a lecture, but a prescription. And the course of treatment must be more or less protracted, according to the inveteracy of the disease. A drunkard's medicine, I remember, was invented some years ago ; largely compounded, perhaps, of ipecac, or some other nauseating drug. But it accomplished no great good. There was needed, what we now propose, the protracted and stringent discipline of an hospital.

Along with this treatment for the body, there is needed also a treatment for the mind. Forms of industry should be appointed, the avails of which shall go towards the support of a dependent family. The drunkard should thus be encouraged to recover himself to domestic and social duty ; his children's cry for bread piercing the walls of his retreat. Books also should be supplied, and works of art, and innocent recreations, to wake up within him a sense of his finer manhood, and so fortify him against the importunity of his baser appetites. And for this, too, time is required ; not an exhortation,

which is for an hour, but a gymnasium, which is for weeks and months.

But, crowning all, there is need of a truly religious treatment ; no one man's creed, wherein it differs from the creed of other men equally wise and good, but those grand elements of truth and duty, which underlie all good creeds, because they underlie all men's necessities. Conscience must be aroused from its stupid sleep ; and that fear of God implanted, which is the beginning, not merely of all wisdom, but of all safety. Veins once poisoned, may be poisoned anew. Appetites once inflamed, are always inflammable. Tastes, once grovelling, may again deteriorate. Mere pride of character, once broken down, may be forever but a bruised reed. Nowhere is there entire safety for a man, but in the grace of God, which takes him up into the highest sphere of his manhood and makes him truly spiritual. Without this grace, the man who has been dragged up out of the mire, may wallow in it again ; with this grace, the Ethiopian *can* change his skin, and the leopard his spots. At no point is there perfect safety for any man one step below this Christian summit of character. Here there is safety. There dwelleth one amongst us, an august Presence walking with us the courses of our moral history, whose language was and is : "I give unto them eternal life, and they shall never perish neither shall any pluck them out of my hand." To this lofty height of character, to this sublime guardianship, would we bring the unfortunate and shattered inebriate.

Such is the method of treatment proposed by this new candidate for the favor of a humane and Christian public. It is clearly a rational treatment, applying itself to the whole length and breadth of the evil to be remedied. It takes in hand the drunkard's body, to purge it of its poisoned blood. It takes in hand his mind, to purge it of its madness. It takes in hand his moral nature, to purge it of its sin.

This instrumentality will not do every thing ; but something will it do, and much, to check this frightful waste of manhood now weltering along our streets ; much pauperism will it forestall ; much crime ; much suffering. To many an injured and fainting woman's heart, will it give back the husband of her youth ; battered, but no longer debauched. To many a worse than orphaned child will it restore a bountiful and protecting father ; weakened but no longer a wreck.

And many a crown may we hope it will add to the multitude which shall finally be cast before the throne.

Now shall this enterprise which seems so rational, and promises so much of solid good, be suffered to perish either in its birth, or in its cradle? There is wealth enough in New York and to spare, for any and every object which can show itself to be really needed. There is also intelligence enough, and Christian character enough to ensure to each object a candid hearing. We must therefore believe that this enterprise will go on, and take its place amongst the most conspicuous and useful of our public charities.

## ADDRESS OF DR. TURNER.

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GENTLEMEN :—

It is our purpose to lay before you the history and pathology of inebriety. We shall speak of its destructive influence upon nations and individuals, and present the method of treatment proposed by this Asylum.

Inebriety is the first disease of which we have any record. It dates its existence from the birth of the grape, the formation of wine from which was one of the first discoveries of man. We find nothing in the medical records of the Egyptians to prove that it was recognized as a disease. *Æsculapius*, *Hippocrates*, and *Galen* are likewise silent on the subject. Yet we have for the recorder of the pathology of inebriety the most renowned man of ancient or modern times. *Solomon* describes the malady in the most significant language. "At the last it biteth like a serpent and stingeth like an adder." Thus we have sacred history to establish the fact that inebriety was the most frightful and destructive disease then known; comparing it to the venomous bite of the serpent and the deadly sting of the adder, which have no specific—no cure.

We are compelled to trace the influence of this disease in nations rather than individuals, and form our opinions from the facts of history which records the rise and fall of races and nations. When the seeds of this deadly malady were sown by the great men of *Babylon*, *Egypt*, *Greece*, and *Rome*, in their *Bacchanalian* feasts; then the greatness of these mighty nations began to decline, and their chosen people perished and passed away. *Babylon*, with all her glory and magnificence, fell into the hands of the *Persians* when her rulers were drunk with wine and her people maddened by the intoxicating bowl.

By Inebriety Egypt lost her ruler, the world her conqueror in the death of Alexander the Great in the thirty-third year of his age. The historian pens the painful fact that he perished through self-indulgence —by a disease “that biteth like a serpent and stingeth like an adder.”

Polished Greece, the grand depository of the arts and sciences of the civilized world, the residence of the historian, philosopher, statesman, and physician, was the first which erected a temple to the god Bacchus. Little did her great men consider that they were dedicating a temple to a god on whose altar would be sacrificed the glory of their beloved country.

The Bacchanalian feasts in the Roman Empire were the cause of her degenerated councils and her weak government. Inebriety was the malady that destroyed the Roman statesman, general, and soldier. Thus Rome fell by this physical and moral contagion, and the dark ages followed in her downfall.

Arabic history proves conclusively that the Arabians were a temperate people. Their philosophers considered wine as the blood of the devil, and that whoever partook of it was devilish, and labored under the most loathsome disease. The Ishmaelite, with his temperate and and primitive mode of life combined with his indomitable courage, has proved to the physiologist that where the disease of inebriety has not been found in a race, there will be discovered a full development of physical power, capable of enduring the greatest amount of labor and fatigue, a mind with energies that know no defeat, a will that can never be subdued.

We have thus briefly alluded to the history of inebriety as a disease through the ages of the world when alcohol was unknown. The Greeks and Romans were ignorant of ardent spirits. They never understood the art of distillation. The method of extracting alcohol was discovered by an Arabic chemist, and was well understood in the time of Gæber, who flourished in the seventh century. The first spirits known in Europe were manufactured from the grape, and sold for medical purposes in Italy and Spain under the name of alcohol. At a later period the Genoese made it from grain, and sold it in small bottles, at an extravagant price, under the name of aqua-vitæ. From this commenced a new era in the history of this important element which chemistry had revealed to the world. Distilled spirits were added

to the fermented ones, which by their combination have brought upon man a greater agent in producing the disease of inebriety than was felt by the Ancients.

We are not able to glean much from history as regards the effects of inebriety upon individuals from the seventh to the twelfth century. The primitive mode of life of the Northern Barbarians prevented them from being exposed to the Bacchanalian feasts of the polished Greek and luxuriant Roman. In proof of the fact that alcohol was not generally known in the Dark Ages, we can state that in 1299 it was sold as a cordial by the English apothecary, and drank only in small quantities by the nobility and the rich. Thus the source of inebriety was cut off, and the prevalence of the disease rare. But where the grape was cultivated wine was drank in the most extravagant quantities. Bacchanalian feasts were given and exchanged and temples dedicated to this god in every city, town, and hamlet, in the south of Europe.

After the religious crusades had passed, and prince, general, and soldier had retired to their quiet homes, they at once sought an artificial stimulus to replace the excitement incident to martial life. Then began the work of destruction and death. Hundreds of brave soldiers of the cross fell victims to this malady. It regarded no geographical line, it pervaded all classes of men : it laid in the grave the bishop who officiated in his solemn rites ; the priest who in a humbler sphere announced the truths of the Bible ; the statesman whose wisdom was recorded in the policy of his government ; the lawyer who presided upon the bench or plead at the bar ; the merchant whose ships traversed every sea ; the farmer whose broad fields gave their golden fruits to hungry thousands ; last but not least, the mechanic and the laborer whose toils produced the wealth of the world, and gave comfort and luxury to the nations.

The last argument which we have to offer in proof of the complete annihilation of races by this disease is found in the history of the Red-man of North America. After the sailing of Columbus and his brave associates from the shores of Spain, in the month of August, 1492, a new epoch is observed in the crumbling and wasting away of one of the noblest races upon the face of the earth. The Aborigines of our country (whose sad fate awakens the most painful associations con-



ected with its settlement,) were the victims of this destroying maldy. At the landing of our Pilgrim Fathers at Plymouth Rock, 1620, it is estimated that over one million and a half of Indians existed in our land ; a people whose physical development and powers of endurance were above the average of the Caucassian race. Thus has passed away a nation of nearly two millions of inhabitants in the short space of two hundred and thirty-five years—a fact which has no precedent in history, a truth for the physiologist to consider, a phenomenon for the physician to investigate.

We now proceed to give the pathology of inebriety in its distinct character. We shall show the marked peculiarities of this affection which distinguish it from all other diseases. Inebriety is produced by alcohol introduced into the stomach, thence taken up by absorbents and carried into the blood. This fluid deteriorated by the poison of alcohol is rendered less or altogether incapable of performing its due offices in the animal economy.

By numerous experiments we have found that the blood of inebriates contains alcohol. These experiments were made in this city, assisted by my colleague, Dr. Gardiner ; also in London, Paris, Edinburgh, Vienna, Berlin, Copenhagen, and St. Petersburg.

The acute form of this disease attacks the brain, producing a stupor of the mind, vertigo, sickness at the stomach, and coldness of the extremities. A deathly pallor of the countenance is observable in some cases ; in others the face is flushed, the brain loaded with blood. To illustrate the acute form of this disease, its causes and its results, I will mention a festival given in Russia (when I was visiting that highly interesting country in the year 1850,) by a prince who had gained great favor among the nobility for his magnificent entertainments. To this great feast I was invited, through the politeness of this accomplished and liberal specimen of Russian noblemen. The company was composed of ladies and gentlemen who represented nearly every country in Christendom. This feast begun at the early hour of six in the evening and lasted until three in the morning. Such was the extravagant indulgence in wines and brandies, that out of the party of five hundred present four died from an immediate congestion of the brain, and a great number had milder attacks, which confined then to their homes and beds for a number of days. I



was told by a distinguished Russian physician that such terminations of these Bacchanalian jubilees was not uncommon among the princes of Russia, and that the most serious results to life and health followed.

I will cite an incident further illustrating this stage of the disease. It is one familiar to every New-Yorker, as it excited much attention at the time, calling out many articles from the leading journals of the day, and causing much discussion as to the proper ventilation of our city prisons. In the month of April, 1853, six men were arrested in one of the lower streets of our city, who had been drinking for a wager until by their excesses they were reduced to a state of unconsciousness (or as we would style it, laboring under an acute attack of inebriety, ety). These men were conveyed to the Tombs and placed together in a cell, where they remained for the night. In the morning the keeper of the prison in the line of his duty made a call at the cell where these men were confined. He unlocked the iron door and beheld an appalling spectacle. Four lifeless bodies, and the remaining two in a state of great exhaustion. One of these soon after died. An inquest was held over these bodies, and from post mortem examinations made a highly congested state of the brain was discovered, proving that these men died from an *acute attack of inebriety*, rather than from an infected state of the atmosphere.

Since my attention has been specially directed to the investigation of the Pathology and Morbid Anatomy of Inebriety, I have had opportunities of witnessing this disease in all its forms and in every variety of constitution and temperament. But the limits of this paper do not admit a prolixity of detail. I therefore mention another case only illustrating the effects of an acute attack as it manifests itself in the Brain and Stomach. While in London in 1851, in the month of October, a case occurred at my lodgings, in the person of a member of the family, who was suspected of having taken poison. I was hastily summoned to attend the patient, and on my arrival found a vigorous and athletic man about thirty years of age apparently in the agonies of dissolution. On my approaching the first fact noticed was the peculiar odor of ardent spirits emanating from the breath. His face was pale and contracted. I forthwith resorted to the stomach-pump, but owing to the almost Tetanic rigidity of the muscles of the

jaws, and the struggles of the patient, was unable to succeed in introducing it. Time was precious and other powerful measures were made use of but in vain. The man now lay in a comatose state, breathing stertorously. Powerful convulsions soon followed, terminating life. Thus died in the space of forty minutes from an acute attack of Inebriety, one whom a few hours before I had beheld in the beauty and vigor of manhood. This person was not in the habit of indulging in intoxicating beverages, but of late, owing to losses in business, had in a measure given way to despondency. Yet nothing unusual had been observed in his general habits until that fatal evening when he returned home earlier than usual and betook himself to his room and bed and was discovered as mentioned. On examination of the room an empty bottle was discovered in the bed that was known to have contained eight ounces of alcohol. He had evidently taken the whole at once. By the permission of his friends I was permitted six hours after death, to examine the body, which I did in company with another physician. On opening the stomach we found about four ounces of fluid, which we preserved and afterwards analyzed, extracting from the same an ounce of pure alcohol. The mucous membrane throughout the stomach was of a cherry red color, the effects of active congestion. The alimentary canal was next examined throughout. The liver, pancreas, spleen, gall bladder, kidneys and bladder of urine were found in a comparatively healthy condition, save that the spleen was engorged with blood. The mucous membrane of the duodenum was much redder than natural, having participated in the active congestion of the stomach. The lungs and brain were next dissected. No morbid appearances were found in the former, but the latter exhibited tokens of the most active congestion; its vessels were crowded with blood, yet none was found extra-vasated as generally seen in cases of pure apoplexy, showing that death is produced in cases of this kind not only from a pressure on the brain but also more particularly from the specific virus of Alcohol circulating in the mass of the blood determined to the cerebral vessels. From blood taken from the vessels of the brain, a quantity of hydrogen gas was collected which burnt on the application of flame. Having taken so large a quantity of fluid from the stomach, we were enabled carefully to apply the tests for different poisons, but none was found. Death

had been produced in this case solely from the effects of Alcohol.

In tracing the progress of this disease we pass from the acute to the chronic form, and review the characteristic symptoms and derangements as they appear in the body, which are as follows : Indigestion with lack of appetite, costiveness or a lax state of the bowels, with slimy and bloody stools, a diseased state of the kidneys and bladder, indicated by mucous discharges, cold extremities, manifesting a lack of general circulation of the blood, a bloated countenance, swollen limbs and a dropsical body, demonstrations of a torpid state of the absorbents, a fullness in the region of the liver, denoting an enlargement of that organ, a hard and dry cough, manifesting an inflammation of the breathing apparatus, large and indolent blotches or ulcerated sores upon the skin, revealing an impurity of the blood, a morbid state of the gall bladder, producing a jaundiced hue of the skin, palpitation of the heart indicating an abnormal action of this great engine of life-moving power. The wild and delirious state of the mind, manifesting a fearful change in the healthy action of the brain, defective vision, hearing, taste and smell, proving that the special nerves have lost their power of communication from the outward world to the inner man, and lastly we find it pervades the nervous system and produces a complete prostration of its important functions. Thus is the medium of communication between the mind and body destroyed. In other words it cuts off the wires, knocks down the poles, and annihilates the electric current between the body and soul. It weakens the nerves of sense, paralyzes those of motion, and makes the body no longer the obedient servant of the will, but sends it tenantless abroad into the world a wandering maniac or a stupified and almost lifeless idiot.

The morbid appearances of the brain in chronic inebriety are set forth in the following case. Jonas Carter, a laborer, aged 54, who had been a hard drinker for 20 years, was seized with a violent pain in the head which confined him to bed. I was called in one hour after the attack. I found symptoms of phrenitis present. His eyes were red and had a furious expression, rolling constantly with a wild glare. His face was tumid, the carotid and temporal arteries pulsating strongly. His skin was hot and parched, the pulse at the wrist strong and full and the bowels costive. I prescribed for the patient and on calling twenty-four hours

afterwards found that the stage of excitement had given place to prostration indicated by muscular relaxation and a feeble pulse. The man sank rapidly and died the next day. The body was examined. I found that the stomach and liver bore traces of recent inflammation. A small quantity of serum existed in the cavity of the chest, also in the pericardium. But the brain afforded conspicuous manifestations of disease. The dura-mater adhered very strongly to the skull and was detached with difficulty. On the internal surface of this membrane a thin layer of coaguable lymph was found, having the appearance of an adventitious membrane. The veins of the pia-mater were turgid with blood. The substance of the brain was much firmer and tougher than in a normal state; the ventricles somewhat enlarged containing a small quantity of serum. The remaining internal organs were healthy in appearance.

The morbid appearances of the heart in chronic inebriety are demonstrated by the following case. Louis Trevor, a gilder, forty-seven years of age, an immoderate drinker for thirteen years, consulted me complaining of a palpitation of the heart to which he had been subject for three years. He stated also that he was always worse after eating. I gave him advice, and saw him no more until seven months afterwards, when I was called to his house. Found him sitting up reclining his head forward upon the back of a chair, having been unable to assume a recumbent posture. He stated that he had not been able to sleep since the attack, twenty-four hours previous. The symptoms present were a bloated face, an anxious cast of countenance, a short, dry cough, attended with no expectoration, a feeble and intermitting pulse, and at intervals, a violent palpitation of the heart. His legs were cold and somewhat swollen. I saw him daily, but was unable to check the progress of the disease. His legs had now become dropsical and he failed very fast, the pulsations of the heart were so forcible on the day of his death (the eighth from the attack) as to shake his whole body violently. On inspection post-mortem the abdominal viscera were sound. The heart was much enlarged and several ounces of serum were effused in the pericardium. This membrane gave evidence of inflammation being glued to the heart in several places. A pint of fluid was found in the cavity of the thorax. No other morbid conditions were observed in the body.

## THE STOMACH.

Active inflammation of this organ ending in disorganization and death is rarely met with as the result of an acute attack of inebriety. I have seen only three cases that gave proof of this fact by dissection. On the other hand the stomach is somewhat liable to disorganization in the chronic form of this disease. Nor is this remarkable when we consider the numerous congestions following every dram of ardent spirits introduced into its cavity. Lashed into fury and goaded to desperation from time to time by the spur of alcohol, it staggers under its burden and at last ceases to perform its functions. The following case illustrates its morbid appearance. Mark Satterly, a book-binder, aged 35, a brandy drinker for fourteen years, requested advice. He complained of an uneasy sensation at the pit of the stomach, was affected occasionally with nausea, in short, gave the usual symptoms of incipient dyspepsia. These sensations had been present for three years. I gave him advice and a prescription which alleviated his distress for a time. I saw nothing further of him for four months, when I was called in by the attending physician. I learned that he had been relieved in a measure by my advice and was comparatively well until two weeks after, when the old symptoms returned and he began to grow worse. His condition now was as follows. He had an obstinate costiveness and frequent and violent vomitings of a dark colored fluid. His whole body was bathed with a cold, clammy perspiration. Continued singultus was present. His pulse was one hundred and small. Four hours after, found the patient in the articulo-mortis. His eyes were fixed, his countenance shrunken, and pulse intermitting. He breathed his last 25 minutes after my arrival.

Eight hours after death, in the presence of the attending physician, I examined the body. I found (contrary to my expectation) the liver sound yet somewhat enlarged. The brain, lungs and heart gave no evidence of organic disease; neither did the rest of the viscera save the stomach. The internal tunic of this organ was much thickened in its whole extent and of a slate color which I have never observed except in the stomach of inebriates. Near the Pyloric orifice were several foul looking ulcers, two of which had nearly penetrated the entire thickness of the stomach.



## THE LIVER.

The liver is a viscus extremely subject to a disease induced by a long course of indulgence in intoxicating beverages.

The venous blood of the body highly charged with alcohol arrives at the laboratory of the liver, where is manufactured vitiated bile, unfitted to assist or promote a normal digestion. Repeated congestions of contaminated blood diffused in its circulation through the parenchyma of the liver disorder its function, and at last end in a disorganization of its structure. This is illustrated by the many dissections I have made of those who have died from disease of the liver produced entirely by inebriety. The morbid lesions discovered by dissections are illustrated, viz: The first morbid appearance of the liver noticed is its enlargement and induration. We find also a species of tubercle diffused throughout its whole substance. These anomalous productions are of a brown color, and on section have something of a granulated appearance. They vary in size, but most generally are of the bulk of a pea. They have no connection with a scrofulous state of the system, but are evidently the result of a slow process of disease produced in the liver from the alcoholic state of the blood present in the chronic stage of inebriety,

## THE LUNGS.

Since I have been investigating the morbid anatomy and pathology of inebriety, I have observed an emaciation of body frequently attendant upon the chronic form of this disease, which I have not been able to account for satisfactorily in all cases on the theory of defective nutrition; for in many dissections I have not only found the digestive apparatus free from organic lesion, but in a healthy state, capable of having performed its normal function (the assimilation of nutriment).

From minute microscopic examinations of different organs to account for the causes of this wasting of the body, I turned the glass to the lungs, where I discovered minute granular bodies, of a firm texture, and identical in character with those already described in the liver. These bodies were found in some cases clustered together, more often separate, and embedded in the vesicles of the lungs. I have frequently found them present to the number of several hundred. Their favorite seat is in the lower lobes, yet in several cases they have been seen

in the summit of the lungs. That they are not allied in their nature to any species of scrofulous tubercle, is demonstrated by the fact that they never soften or suppurate. I have sometimes found them present in the lungs and liver at the same time (or in the same subject); but this is not often the case, for when they abound in the former they are generally absent in the latter.

These morbid products generated from alcoholic blood, are a source of great irritation to the delicate structure of the lungs, and by lessening the diameter of its air-cells, render the organ incapable of performing its due office in the ventilation of the blood. This fluid therefore being surcharged with noxious gases creates in its circulation through the system a species of hectic fever, which saps the vital energies of the system and ultimately leads to the death of the body.

In order to demonstrate the fact that the species of tubercle (I refer to) has its origin from an alcoholic *virus* in the blood, I instituted a series of experiments upon domestic animals. Those selected were dogs, cats, and rabbits of full growth, which were forced daily to take a quantity of ardent spirits mixed with their food. To some was given rum, to others brandy, whiskey, gin, or malt liquor. At first I found it difficult for their stomachs to retain this poison, but by perseverance succeeded in gradually increasing the dose up to a certain point. They all began to decline under the use of these stimulants, and one after another died. Those who partook of brandy failed first; next in the order of fatality were the rum-drinkers, and lastly the consumers of malt liquors. This last class were the least emaciated at the time of their death, while the others were reduced to mere skeletons. Some died in three weeks, others in three months, while two of the dogs who had been fed upon ale lasted until the tenth month.

All these animals were dissected. The organs that gave the strongest evidence of disease were the lungs and liver. In the former were found the same kind of tubercle which I have described as found in the lungs of many persons who have died from chronic inebriety.

The livers of some of the animals were much enlarged and indurated. They also contained tubercles. In several, the brain, stomach and kidneys were found much congested. Out of the whole number subjected to these experiments, the comparative results of diseased action in the different vital organs, were as follows:



Disease of Brain.....	3
“ “ Heart.....	2
“ “ Stomach.....	4
“ “ Lungs.....	12
“ “ Liver.....	18
“ “ Kidneys.....	4
Total.....	<hr/> 43

## THE KIDNEYS.

This important excreting organ at times discloses, on dissection, organic lesions. Tasked beyond measure in removing from the blood impurities consequent upon a long course of indulgence in spirituous liquors, it hoists signals of distress which, if unheeded, at last hurries the votary of inebriety to an untimely grave.

The kidneys of those who have died in the chronic stage of this disease are quite often found enlarged, softened and of a spongy texture. The substance of the organ on section exhibits the same character as the external surface. Through this degenerate mass the vessels of the kidneys can be seen enlarged in their calibre, and at times crowded with blood. I have never found ulcers present, and am confident that this spongy condition of the organ is produced from repeated congestion, and that alcoholic poison is the main agent.

In concluding organic pathology, I would remark that the affections of the different viscera, as set forth above, are those which have been most observed in my post-mortem examinations. They are entirely different from those found in dissections of persons who have never used intoxicating beverages and require different treatment.

I shall now speak of the hereditary character of this disease as it develops itself in children under ten years of age, as its hereditary tendency is more observed at this period of life than in mature or declining age. The marked character of the disease, as found in children inherited from their parents, is precisely the same in morbid anatomy as found in adults who have labored under an attack of chronic inebriety. Dissections and microscopic investigations reveal the same species of granular tubercle in the liver and lungs, and the morbid appearances revealed in the different organs, coincide with those described in my dissections of adults.

By investigation we find that almost one-quarter of the children under ten years of age, die, in our city, of hereditary inebriety. The deaths of children under ten in the city of New York, for 1854, were as follows :

1 year old and under.....	9,166
1 " " " 2.....	3,697
2 " " " 5.....	2,810
5 " " " 10.....	1,079
Total.....	<u>16,752</u>

The whole number of deaths of all ages for the same year was 28,568, making the ratio of deaths among children under ten to the whole number as 6 to 10, while in Paris the ratio is only 4 to 10; London, 6 7-10 to 10; Edinburgh, 7 to 10; Lyons, 3 9-10 to 10; Copenhagen 5 1-2 to 10; Geneva, 3 1-2 to 10.

These tables show that in the countries where inebriety is most common, the number of deaths is the greatest among children, and that no other cause save inebriety produces it. The above tables collected in my tour of Europe, are about correct. In conversing with the celebrated Dr. Riggs of London, on the subject of the mortality of children, he says "that one-half of the deaths among the children of our city is produced by hereditary inebriety."

We have fully described hereditary inebriety as it manifests itself in children, and shown that it lays its blighting and withering hand upon the buds of early years, as well as upon manhood, the maturer tree of life. On every family hearth-stone in our land is found recorded its mournful biography of blasted hopes, broken vows, destroyed constitutions and premature deaths.

Every physician knows full well that a predisposition to become affected by certain diseases, on the application of the exciting causes, does certainly exist in the human family, and particularly in the diseases of inebriety, scrofula, gout and mania. In some instances the predisposition is more strongly marked than in others. But where it is inert and insufficient of itself to produce disease, it requires the application of an exciting cause. This is the proper light in which we should view hereditary pre-dispositions to inebriety as we find it in adults. Every family in our land is more or less pre-disposed to this

disease. It may pass over one generation and appear in the next. So the grand-father, and grand-son (the first and third generations) may be inebriates while the intervening link escapes. This phenomenon is noticed by every common observer. Does it then require a stronger argument than this to prove the vital importance of founding in our city an Inebriate Asylum? Has not every family throughout the length and breadth of America *an interest in this institution paramount to all others?*

Dr. Darwin says, "It is remarkable that all the diseases from drinking spirituous or fermented liquors, are liable to become hereditary even to the third generation, gradually increasing, if the cause be continued until the family becomes extinct."—*Botan. Gard., Part ii.—Note on vitis.*

Statistics show that the past ten years have consigned to the grave 478,239 inebriates. As correctly as I can estimate by reviewing the number of deaths for 1850, in the United States, I find that the children who have died from hereditary inebriety have not been included in the above number, and the number of deaths in this class is yearly 20,274, making, for the ten years, 202,740, which added to 478,239 makes a total of 680,979. Thus we show that the disease of inebriety alone causes a greater destruction of life in the United States, than cholera, yellow fever and small-pox combined, and yet nothing is done by the general government, state or city to stay its progress, except administering to its fevered system the damp walls of a prison and the poorly ventilated cell—chains and shackles to the body to subdue the wild ravings of a delirious mind.

We shall now speak of the *insanity of inebriety* and its consequences.

The acute form of this disease is more prevalent in our city than any other malady, and sometimes the most rapid in its mission of destruction. The number of cases occurring during the year, ending June 30th, 1855, was 13,307, as found in the report of the Chief of Police.

From the acute springs the chronic insanity of inebriety which marches in its course to that fearful and almost incurable stage of constitutional insanity ending in idiotic darkness, which has no ray of hope to light the soul.

Chronic insanity of inebriety is found in our insane asylums to a

great extent, and produces more than one-half of the constitutional insanity in the United States. This stage of the disease should be treated in an inebriate asylum, where the patient would be entirely separated from insanity produced from other causes. Every physician knows that the mind of an inebriate is too weak to be exposed to the fearful influence of an insane asylum. It is, indeed, adding fuel to the flame, and consequences the most gloomy in character may follow. According to the census of 1840, there were in the United States 17,434 insane and idiotic persons. In reviewing the census of 1850, we find the number has increased to 31,397, making an increase for ten years of more than 80 per cent. At this ratio of increase, the United States will have, in 1950, eleven millions, two hundred and three thousand, six hundred and thirty-two insane and idiotic persons; and if our population should double every thirty years, we shall have, in the United States, in 1950, a population of two hundred and forty-three millions, eight hundred and thirty-nine thousand, two hundred and eighty-five making the ratio of insane and idiotic persons for 1950 to be one in twenty-one.

When such fearful results of the mental annihilation of a people are presented to the mind as the statistics show, the inquiry is at once made, what are the causes which are working the certain destruction of our race and country?

By our investigations we have been able to show that the prolific mother of insanity and idiocy is inebriety. To demonstrate this fact still further, we have only to state that in France, where the chronic form of inebriety is seldom seen or known, the number of insane is small, being only one to a thousand; while in Scotland, the land where inebriety is most prevalent, the ratio is one to five hundred and sixty-three; in the United States the ratio is one to seven hundred and fifty-one; in England it is one to seven hundred and ninety-three.

In my visits to the principal insane asylums of Europe and the United States, I have always found, by inquiring of the attending physician, that fifty-five per cent, of all the patients within their asylums were caused by acute, chronic or constitutional inebriety.

The destruction of the physical and mental powers of the people of the United States by this disease alone is so vast in its character and rapid in its increase, that it requires no voice of inspiration to pen the

certain downfall of our republic and the complete annihilation of our people. The simple rule of multiplication proves with mathematical certainty that before a thousand years have rolled away into the deep gulf of the past, this nation will be sepulchred in earth's great cemetery, and the historian will have written its gloomy epitaph by the side of her sister republics, Greece and Rome.

The success which has followed the treatment of this disease by the practitioners of the past and present centuries has been small indeed, owing to the want of proper remedies which the physician has not had at his disposal, and the nature of the diseased state of the mind, which he has mistaken for the peculiar malady of the body. Our treatment I will here describe in connection with that adopted at the present day. An asylum instead of jails and prisons, a home administering to his physical comforts and medical wants, moral instructions and religious teachings, a retreat looking out into the happy future of restored manhood, we offer as a *substitute* for iron bars and grates, where the air vibrates with the oaths of the degraded thief and cruel murderer, or the wild screech of the maniac which opens to his vision a night of darkness which knows no morrow;—we offer the physician who regards him as an equal and treats him as a companion, instead of the harsh and unfeeling treatment too often received from the keepers of our prisons and penitentiaries, who consider him in the light of a felon; the gentle and holy influence of the minister of Christ, pointing out the path to Heaven through the atonement of the Son of God, in place of the blighting, degrading, and forever damning seeds of vice sown by the ministers of the devil found in our prisons as the associates of the inebriate.

In the treatment of this disease I have always used tonics instead of stimulants (as adopted by the old mode of practice), having found that stimulants aggravated internal congestions, and produced a stage in this disease most dangerous in its results; a stage often followed by delirium tremens and convulsions. The tonics I have prescribed have produced a favorable action in the system. Baths have relieved internal congestions, and mild cathartics have obviated costiveness. Other remedies have been used as occasion has required. Under this treatment I have never had a case of delirium tremens. The success attending this treatment depends upon the control which the physician



has over his patient, as well as the remedies employed. I have had much trouble in treating three-fourths of my cases, for the sole reason that before I had brought the tone of the system above par, and the mind to a corresponding state of health, my patient would have fresh attacks of the disease by being exposed to the causes of this malady. Relapse after relapse would follow, until death closed the scene. From this we prove the importance of an asylum, where the patient would be under the complete control of the physician, and where medical, physical, moral, and religious influences could be brought to bear directly upon him. A sufficient time must be allowed for bringing up the tone of the system, creating a healthy action of the mind, awakening the moral sensibilities and revealing to the soul the true image of God.

To further illustrate the want of an asylum for the successful treatment of this disease, I will mention a case where I exhausted every effort. I went so far as to take the patient into my own office, and invited him to my own house, and shared with him my own bed. It was a case which brought me home to my early years and schoolboy hours. It was one who had been my classmate, whose head and heart I well knew. He had natural abilities very seldom met with or excelled. He was a graduate of the Jefferson School in Philadelphia, in the year 1842, and left this institution with the highest honors to himself and pride to his friends. He excelled every student in his class in the branch of chemistry, and corrected several mistakes made by the Professor of that science. He was a great favorite of the late Prof. Grenville Sharpe Patterson, then of that school. Prof. P. remarked to a friend that "Dr. H. would one day make his mark in the scientific world. He considered him a genius, and should watch him with interest as he labored up the rugged path to professional greatness." Dr. H. soon after graduating left for Europe to enlarge his medical observations. He arrived in London in May, 1842, and soon after left for Paris. He had letters of introduction to Velpeau of that city, Wilson and Wilkinson of London, Liebig of Germany, and many other distinguished men in Europe. After attending lectures in Paris a year he became acquainted with the scientific men of that city, and being an excellent French scholar he soon became a favorite with the students. With a pack on his shoulder he

made the tour of France, Italy, Germany, and Switzerland. By his persevering industry and powers of memory, he acquired the Italian language in his journey from France to Italy. His knowledge of the German and Danish languages was good. His natural abilities for acquiring languages may be illustrated by the fact of his learning the Spanish grammar in twenty-four hours. He was a student of Liebig, and a favorite with that great man.

After remaining in Europe four years and visiting the principal colleges of medicine on the Continent, he returned to his native country richly stored with that scientific knowledge which his highly cultivated mind had enabled him to acquire. On his arrival home his friends were looking for a Professorship for him in some institution, which by his abilities he would have filled with honor to himself. Two years after his return to America he began to drink, and lost his interest in everything. His respect for himself was soon lost in the passion for alcoholic drinks. His body became diseased, his mind and firmness of character a wreck. He was a wandering, homeless, and friendless inebriate. In his sober moments he called at my office, ragged, filthy, and sick. He told me his condition, and requested that I should take him under my protection until he could recover physically; his mind would then be sufficiently strong to withstand the causes of this disease. I took him, as I said before, to my office, to my table, and bed. I administered to him medically, I attended to his physical wants, and reasoned with him as an *accountable* being. After four week's treatment he thought he must go East to his friends. I advised him to the contrary, as he had not sufficiently recovered. My reasonings were in vain, his determination could not be altered; so that he left with a partial recovery—in that state of body and mind which is the most disposed to fresh attacks of this malady. I learned from a friend that soon after Dr. H. returned home he began to drink, which he continued to do until the fifteenth day of March last, when he was found dead in his bed. Thus terminated an existence by this malady which had promised so much in professional excellence and individual usefulness; a life which could have been saved by this institution and made to adorn humanity.

The profession have long felt the importance of having the control of the patient, and for the want of this power have turned from the



unsuccessful treatment of the disease disheartened and discouraged. Imagine if you please the complete defeat of medication that would follow in such a disease as the yellow fever, were the patient exposed to all the changes of the atmosphere, to heat and cold, wet and dry, the burning sun of mid-day and the damp dews of midnight. I repeat it, of what avail would be the efforts of the physician were his patient thus exposed? The voice of common humanity would cry aloud for a proper shelter for the sick. To that cry a response would be made, calling into existence, like magic, hospitals of every kind and character.

Inebriety is a disease which carries annually to the grave more than *fifty thousand* persons in our own country; a malady which knows no geographical line, which respects no age or condition, but sweeps with its mighty whirlwind (every *ten years*,) into one common sepulchre *half a million* of people, without even calling forth an effort to shelter its victims, who are left to die and pass away as silently and unnoticed as the falling snow-flakes mid winter's night. Yet this malady is treated as a *crime, not as a disease*; a fact in its character most *diabolical*, and which can never be reconciled to any *divine principle of Christianity*, or a true and *enlightened civilization*.

The minister of Christ, as well as the follower of *Æsculapius*, has long felt the need of an asylum where inebriety could be treated medically, physically, morally, and religiously. He knows full well by sad experience that the Church has not been able to reach this physical and moral disease, which requires the love of Christ as a medicine for the soul as well as medical treatment for the body. He has thus been compelled in his duties of the ministry to turn away the *heart-broken mother*, the downcast father, the anguish-stricken sister, without providing a remedy for their unfortunate friends.

I shall now speak of the great results which will follow from the asylum which we by our humble efforts are endeavoring to establish. I would state that the experience I have had for years past in the treatment of this disease where the patient has been under my control, demonstrates that eighty per cent. can be cured by an asylum. In a conversation with Velpeau, of Paris, upon this subject, he remarked that where an asylum could be established combining *medical, physical, moral, and religious* treatment of inebriates, there could be at

least *eighty per cent.* cured. Wilson and Wilkinson of London, and McGregor of Scotland, have expressed like opinions to me. The venerable Dr. Nott, of Union College, in a letter to me dated January 27th, 1854, says, "It is impossible to estimate the amount of good such an institution would accomplish." The late Hon. Abbott Lawrence, in a conversation with me while he was Minister Plenipotentiary at the Court of St. James, said that "our country was greatly in want of an asylum for inebriates; and that such an institution would be another national monument to the charities of our land, which should be placed in the front rank of the benevolent enterprises of the day." With these medical facts before us, and the opinions of the great men of Europe and this country, we look forward to the certain success of this asylum. The people of our land call loudly for it, as shown by the fact that during the past two years I have received from different parts of the United States fifteen hundred and ninety letters, asking when this institution would be ready to receive patients, as they had friends whom they wished to have enter said asylum. One of these letters, which was written to the Hon. ex-Governor Hunt, and forwarded to me, I will present:

*Philadelphia, Sept. 24, 1854.*

EX-GOVERNOR HUNT—

*Dear Sir:* I take the liberty of addressing you on a subject that deeply interests me. Having seen your name connected with a benevolent institution, and heading a list of Directors of the highest respectability, I have chosen you, sir, as the only one whose name is familiar to me, for the information I need in regard to the institution of the United States Inebriate Asylum. I am the mother of an unfortunate son, whose present situation demands of me prompt and immediate action. He is the son of the late Dr. T., and is in Ohio with my son-in-law. Has been engineering with him since last winter. Has done well until the weather became very hot. Was sick and weak all summer. Mr. H. informed me that he drank very hard, has had several fits, and is unable to work, and has lost all power over himself to abstain from drinking. This is too dreadful for me to bear without making an effort to save him. He is twenty-two years of age, and has occasionally indulged in drinking before, although the habit has never before been fixed. I appeal to your kindness as a

widowed mother. Is there any hope? Is there any refuge for my son? I beg you will write me, and advise with me, and inform me what to do to avail myself of the benefit of this institution, which seems to me to be the only way wherein I can find any help, and you will receive the hearty thanks and kind feelings of an afflicted mother. I drink this bitter cup alone, save God "who tempers the wind to the shorn lamb." Most respectfully yours,

H. T.

Such is the appeal of the mothers of America, whose shipwrecked sons amount to the enormous number of more than two hundred and fifty thousand, and who are now crossing an ocean boundless, shoreless, and tempestuous, without a single beacon to light and direct them to the harbor of safety, without a dry-dock to repair their weak and diseased bodies, which bear on life's voyage the priceless cargo of an immortal soul.

The want of such an asylum brings to me daily some poor, bloated, sick creature, knocking at the door of this institution for admittance. The whole number of inebriates who have applied (in person at my office) to enter the asylum, is seven hundred and twenty-one, which are classified thus :

Liberally educated.....	157
Mechanics.....	465
Laborers.....	105
Total.....	<hr/> 727

One of the applicant's history I will give in a few words. About a year since a man called on me, who by his conversation and general appearance had evidently seen better days. He told me that he was a graduate of an Eastern college, and had been teaching school, in Maine, but by dissipation had lost his situation as a teacher, and was now homeless and penniless. He said he came to enquire if the asylum for inebriates was open, and to see if he could enter it. He told me that he knew his own weakness, and that in his present physical condition it was impossible for him to recover, and his only alternative was to go on the island among thieves or perish in the streets. For the further history of this man I am indebted to Dr. C., an Episcopal clergyman, of Brooklyn, which I will state in substance. "About dusk one Saturday evening," said Dr. C., "a man called at my house and enquired for me. The servant told him I was engaged. He then said that he wished to see me on particular business. I went to the

door, when the stranger said he wished to have a talk with me. I asked him in, when he first enquired if I was not from Vermont and if I did not graduate from such a college, and if I knew such a family, and such a young man, who was a class-mate of mine. All of these questions I answered in the affirmative. He then asked me when I had seen this class-mate of mine and what he was doing? I told him that the person he referred to was in New York about five years since engaged in writing for several periodicals, and bid fair to gain for himself a reputation in the literary world, as he was a fine scholar and would shine in any position. The man then asked me if I knew him. I told him I did not. Said he, please light another burner and see if you can recognise a familiar feature. I did as he requested, but could not find a line upon his countenance to remind me that I had ever seen his face before. Said he, 'I am the person whom you have been describing—one who has been your associate and classmate; one who at this moment stands robbed of every feature which was once engraven upon every class-mate's heart.' I replied, sir, you are imposing upon me—you are no such man. He replied, 'Do you not remember the time we walked to such a place; and have you forgotten the conversation that took place in regard to such a person?' I required no further proof. It was indeed my old acquaintance standing before me, a wreck of humanity, in whose haggard countenance I was unable to discover a single feature of a once bosom friend." Such is the appeal and history of one who in early years bid fair to out-strip all his associates. Such is the biography of thousands who are perishing in a more friendless ocean than the Polar sea. The impulses which prompted the men of our country to rescue the Arctic navigator were noble indeed; but the combined effort of our citizens to save thousands of our people from a clime more perilous than that in which Franklin perished, would be an epoch in our history, and an honor to our common humanity.

# A N A C T

TO INCORPORATE THE UNITED STATES INEBRIATE ASYLUM,  
FOR THE REFORMATION OF THE POOR AND DESTITUTE  
INEBRIATE.—PASSED APRIL 15TH, 1854.

*The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows :*

SECTION 1. All persons who shall become stockholders pursuant to this act, shall be and they are hereby constituted a body politic and corporate by the name of the United States Inebriate Asylum.

§ 2. The said asylum shall continue for the period of fifty years, with the power to sue and be sued, to make and use a common seal, and alter the same at pleasure.

§ 3. The said asylum shall have power in and by their corporate name to purchase, hold and convey real or leasehold estate in the city of New York, and to erect thereon a building or buildings suitable for the purpose of an asylum hereinbefore named, and such other buildings as may be necessary for manufacturing and mercantile purposes connected with such institution, and to purchase, hold and convey such personal property as may be necessary for the objects above specified, and for no other purpose whatever.

§ 4. The capital of said asylum shall be fifty thousand dollars, but may be increased to two hundred thousand dollars at any time the board of directors may think it compatible with the best interest of said asylum, and shall be divided into shares of ten dollars each, and shall be deemed personal property, and transferable in such manner as the said asylum shall by by-laws direct. And said asylum

shall be deemed fully organized, and may commence operations when ten per cent of its capital is paid in.

§ 5. On the first Monday of each year, fifty per cent. of the income of said institution shall be appropriated for the exclusive purpose of supporting poor and destitute inebriates and their families. The remaining fifty per cent. shall be a fund to be appropriated for the payment of interest on the capital stock of said asylum which shall in no case exceed seven per cent. and other incidental expenses.

§ 6. All the affairs and concerns of said asylum shall be managed and conducted by and under the direction of twenty directors, who shall be stockholders and citizens of the State of New York, and who shall be elected by the stockholders annually on the first Monday in January in each year, by ballot, by plurality of the stockholders present and represented by proxy, each share having one vote; and if for any cause such election shall not be so held, the said asylum shall not be deemed dissolved, but such election shall be held within six months thereafter. Notice of the time and place of each election shall be published for two weeks immediately preceding the day appointed therefor, in two daily newspapers, printed and published in the city of New York.

§ 7. The board of directors, annually, from their own body, and as soon as may be after their election, shall proceed to elect by ballot a president and treasurer of the asylum, who, so long as they shall continue directors of said asylum, shall hold their offices respectively during the pleasure of the board of directors, and said directors shall have the power to fill vacancies in their own body caused by the death, resignation, the ceasing to be a shareholder, or removal from the State of New York or otherwise, of any director or directors, and to make all such by-laws not inconsistent with the laws of this State, or the United States, as they may deem proper for the management of the affairs of said asylum, and shall appoint annually by ballot, at least thirty days before such election of directors of said asylum, after the first, three fit and disinterested persons, inspectors of the then next election of directors, and at any time before the election supply any vacancy which may occur in the office of any such inspector; and ten of the board of directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, and all committees, physicians, agents and



officers, authorised by this act or by the by-laws of this asylum, shall be appointed by the board of directors.

§ 8. No shareholder of this asylum shall be liable in his or her individual capacity for any contract, debt or engagement of said asylum after the full amount of their stock is paid in.

§ 9. The indebtedness of this asylum shall not at any time exceed an amount equal to fifty per cent. of the capital paid in; and if the indebtedness of said asylum shall at any time exceed such amount, the directors of said asylum shall be personally and individually liable for such excess to the creditors of said asylum.

§ 10. The board of directors of said asylum shall make an annual report on the 3d Wednesday in January of each year, in detail of their proceedings, expenditures, income, and the affairs of said Asylum, verified by the affidavit of the president and treasurer, which report shall be filed in the office of the Secretary of State.

§ 11. That G. P. Parker, A. G. Phelps, E. A. Lambert, J. D. Wright, Jacob S. Miller, A. Stuart, James Brown, N. A. Prince, Jeremiah Terbell, C. C. North, Robert C. Embree, Alfred Brush, J. Edward Turner, Z. Pratt, Washington Hunt, E. B. Morgan, Noah Worrall, Henry Dubois, Robert L. Stevens, and G. B. Alvord, shall constitute the first board of directors, who shall hold their offices until the first Monday of January, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five, when the regular election shall take place, and they shall be commissioners whose duty it shall be, within five months after the passage of this act, at some suitable place or places in the city of New York, and such other places as they may determine, to open books, to receive subscriptions to the capital stock of said asylum, for the period of sixty days, or until the said capital stock shall be subscribed for.

§ 12. This act shall continue in force for the period of fifty years, subject, however, to amendments, modifications, and repeal by the legislature, and at the dissolution of said institution, the asylum and the grounds attached thereto shall be ceded to the State of New York, to be used by said State for some benevolent institution.

§ 13. Nothing herein contained shall be construed or held as intending to confer any banking or insurance privileges.

§ 14. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATE OF NEW YORK, *Secretary's Office.*

I have compared the preceding with the original law on file in this office, and hereby certify the same to be a correct transcript therefrom and of the whole of said original.

Given under my hand and seal  
of office, at the city of Albany, this  
eighteenth day of April, one thousand  
eight hundred and fifty-four. }

A. G. JOHNSON, *Dep. Secretary of State.*

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## AN ACT

TO AMEND THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED STATES INEBRIATE  
ASYLUM.—PASSED APRIL 23D, 1855.

*The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and  
Assembly, do enact as follows :*

SECTION I. The Act entitled “An Act to incorporate the United States Inebriate Asylum,” Passed April 15th, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four, is hereby amended so as to read as follows.

§ 2. This Institution shall have power in and by its corporate name, to lease a building or buildings suitable for said Asylum, and such other buildings as the Institution may require, and to hold such personal property as may be required to carry on said Institution.

§ 3. The said Institution shall have power to retain all inebriates who enter said Asylum for the period of three months, or six months if the patient's reformation should require it.

§ 4. The first Board of Directors shall hold their offices until the first Monday in January, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six when a new Board shall be chosen, and five of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

§ 5. This Act shall take effect immediately.

STATE OF NEW YORK, *Secretary's Office.*

I have compared the preceding with the original law on file in this

office, and do hereby certify that the same is a correct transcript therefrom, and of the whole of said original law.

Given under my hand and seal of  
office, at the city of Albany, this  
eleventh day of May, in the year one  
thousand eight hundred and fifty-five.

A. G. JOHNSON, *Dep. Secretary of State.*

## ASYLUM FOR INEBRIATES.

### REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS AND APPEAL TO THE PUBLIC.

WE, the undersigned, appointed by the Legislature of the State of New York, to organize an Institution to be known as "The United States Inebriate Asylum, and to act as Commissioners to receive subscriptions to the capital stock of said Asylum," do herewith submit to the public the following statement :

The object of this Institution is to provide an asylum for the poor and destitute inebriate, where his physical and moral condition will be alike the care of the physician and the philanthropist, and where his labor may be rendered productive and of service to his family. With the asylum there will be connected work shops, in which each patient as soon as his condition will permit, will be regularly employed—thus making the Asylum a self supporting institution. It will be seen that the community will thus be relieved of the burden of maintaining inebriates in almshouses and prisons ; who will be separated from the society of those incarcerated for public crimes, and placed where their inebriety will be treated as a *disease*, and where no efforts will be wanting to produce in them a thorough reformation ; and where an income from their labor will be secured to their families, who otherwise would be left to penury and suffering. To carry out successfully the great aim of the Institution, \$50,000 must be raised ; this being the amount of Capital Stock required by the Charter. This amount, which can be increased when necessary, is divided into shares of \$10 each. Any person wishing to subscribe to the Capital

Stock, can send his name with the amount he will take to any one of the Directors.

We think it judicious to lease a building or buildings, (until suitable edifices can be erected) for the purpose of entering at once, or as soon as practicable, upon the work for which the charter was granted. In accordance with a provision in the act of incorporation, there will be a Report on the third Wednesday of January in each year, of the proceedings, expenditures, income, and condition of the Asylum, verified by the affidavits of the President and Treasurer, which Report must be filed in the office of the Secretary of State.

In regard to the necessity of an institution of this character, we cite no less authority than DR. BENJAMIN RUSH :

“To the account of physical remedies,” he says, “I add one more, viz.: The establishment of a hospital in every city and town in the United States, for the exclusive purpose of hard drinkers. They are as much the objects of public humanity and charity as mad people. They are indeed more hurtful to society than most of the deranged patients of a common hospital would be, if they were set at liberty.

We are happy in giving assurance that this enterprise meets with the approbation and encouragement of many of the most intelligent and philanthropic members of the community. The directors put forth this brief statement of their object and plan of operations with the expectation of meeting a quick and cordial response from the benevolent of this and other sections of the country. The call for sympathy and material aid in laying a permanent basis of an Institution that promises much for the recovery and salvation of a large number of the human brotherhood, we are confident will meet with a ready response.

This Institution is not designed to conflict with any other method for recovering the inebriate. There is no Asylum similar to it in this or in any other country; thousands will look to it for help, and help they should and must have. That which was worth creating is worth preserving. The benevolent Father puts it in our power to save those who are ready to perish. To rescue a fellow-being from physical and spiritual thralldom, is worthy of the exercise of the highest talent and of the purest love. To redeem from ruin is greater than to create. To turn one from vice to purity, from darkness to light, from death to life, to make him the possessor of a free, enlarged, and beatified exist-

ence, is a divine mission. Everywhere goes up the wail of wrecked humanity, of prostrate and suffering brothers. From every side comes the cry for help. They are the true workers who respond to this cry. They are enriched in giving and blessed in blessing.

Fellow-Citizens, Fathers, Brothers and Sisters ! Give us your aid in this branch of beneficence, and the blessing of multitudes will be your reward.

HON. WASHINGTON HUNT, <i>Lockport,</i>	G. P. PARKER,
HON. E. A. LAMBERT,	ALFRED BRUSH,
ANSON G. PHELPS,	HENRY DUBOIS,
J. D. WRIGHT,	NOAH WORRAL,
JACOB S. MILLER, M. D.,	G. B. ALVORD,
NEWELL A. PRINCE,	HON. E. B. MORGAN,
JEREMIAH TERBELL,	HON. ZADOK PRATT, <i>Prattsville,</i>
C. C. NORTH,	J. EDWARD TURNER, M. D.

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## ASYLUM FOR THE POOR AND DESTITUTE INEBRIATE.

*To Hon. Fernando Wood, Mayor of the City of New York :*

DEAR SIR—We are about to establish in the City of New York, an Asylum for the poor and destitute inebriate. This institution has been chartered by the Legislature of our State, giving it power by the amendment of its charter, passed April 10th, 1855, to retain all patients who are received in the Asylum for the period of three and six months, if the patient's reformation should require it. We, the projectors of this Asylum, have long felt the importance of having an institution like the one we are now, by our humble efforts, endeavoring to establish in our city. The treatment of the poor and unfortunate inebriate, in sending him to our city prisons, and there permitting him to mingle with criminals of the vilest cast, has long been a blight upon our social and moral relations as enlightened beings, which is not consistent with the great principles of Christian brotherhood. It becomes us, therefore, as Christians, and well wishers for the moral improvements of the people of our City and State, to provide a retreat and a home for this unfortunate and neglected class of our citizens.

We wish to treat inebriety as a disease, and not as a crime. We wish, by medical and physical comforts, to recruit the exhausted powers of the constitution, strengthen the springs of life, and give them fresh energy and vigor ; by kindness and love we wish to prove to the

world that there is no one who has given way to the disease of intemperance, but can be reclaimed to their families, their country and their God.

Knowing the deep and lively interest you take in all the great benevolent institutions of our country, and the vital importance you attach to the cultivation of sound morals for the people of our land, as the only substantial basis on which our institutions can exist and flourish, convinces us that we shall have your entire support in founding this Asylum in our city, which will be the only one of the kind in this country or in Europe. We would be pleased to have your views upon the moral importance of having in our city an Asylum for the unfortunate inebriate, as a substitute for sending him to our city prisons, where he will mingle with the criminal and become schooled in vice. With much respect, I remain your humble and obedient servant,

J. EDWARD TURNER, M. D.,

303 East Broadway, New York.

#### MAYOR WOOD'S REPLY.

*Mayor's Office, New York, May 12, 1855.*

DEAR SIR :—Your favor of the 10th inst., is received. I approve of the proposed Asylum for the Poor and Destitute Inebriate. Its objects are purely philanthropic, and should commend themselves to the good and humane of all classes. Such an institution has long been wanted in this city.

The reasons why it is impolitic, as well as cruel, to incarcerate the inebriate within the same prison walls as the convict, are so obvious, that no argument or statement is necessary to enforce them. My many other engagements do not leave me time to go more at length into this subject now, but you may rest assured that I fully appreciate the objects of this enterprise, and it has my best wishes for success.

Very respectfully yours,

FERNANDO WOOD, *Mayor.*

To J. EDWARD TURNER, M. D., 303 East Broadway, New York.